

and Victim Restitution Act of 1996, with 15 of my colleagues. This measure builds on our efforts to reform the Federal prison system and reduce recidivism among released inmates while promoting justice for victims and society. My bill is a tough measure, but its intent goes far beyond simply punishing inmates.

One of the major barriers to the successful rehabilitation of Federal prison inmates has been the weak work requirements contained in the Omnibus Crime Control Act of 1990. The 1990 Crime Control Act does not require a minimum work requirement for inmates. Although it costs over \$21,000 annually to care for each prisoner in the Federal prison system, a statutory minimum workweek for prisoners does not exist. Instead, the United States Code touches on the subject with vague language which simply states that it is the policy of the Federal Government that prisoners should work.

The reality is that the average workday for a prisoner in the United States is only 6.8 hours long. While some States have longer workdays, the average prisoner is working fewer hours than the taxpayer who supports him.

Mandatory work for prisoners should serve the dual purpose of compensating taxpayers and victims while instilling values and responsibility in those who have failed to live within an orderly society. The Prison Work and Victim Restitution Act of 1996 would correct some of the basic failings of our criminal justice system by requiring Federal prisoners to work at least 50 hours per week. The earnings of prisoners will be distributed as follows: one-third to compensate the Bureau of Prisons for the cost of incarceration, one-third to a victim restitution fund, one-tenth to be placed in a savings account for an individual prisoner, and the remainder, 23 percent, will go to States which enact the same work requirements for their own prison systems.

My legislation clarifies that OSHA and the Fair Labor Standards Act—including minimum wage—do not apply to inmates. It also prohibits prisoners from engaging in nonrehabilitative behavior such as smoking, possessing pornography, and listening to vulgar music. Drug testing is mandatory.

This bill addressed the problem of ensuring there is an adequate supply of paying work for prisoners. My legislation permits UNICOR, the prison industries system, to expand and allows nonprofit agencies—many of which receive Federal grants to combat crime and poverty in our communities—to use prison labor.

Justice Fellowship, a national organization committed to restoring justice to victims and society and promoting work for prisoners, has endorsed the Prison Work and Victim Restitution Act.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important bill.

#### THE FULBRIGHT PROGRAM—THE VALUE OF EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE PRO- GRAMS

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 1996

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, one of the profound successes of our Nation's foreign policy

and one of the critical programs that has provided critical support for democracy and respect for human rights has been our Nation's farsighted educational and cultural exchange programs, which are administered through the U.S. Information Agency.

Just a few days ago, Mr. Speaker, the Subcommittee on International Operations and Human Rights of the Committee on International Relations held an excellent oversight hearing on these vital programs. My colleagues on that committee from both sides of the political spectrum expressed strong bipartisan support for these essential educational and cultural exchange programs.

Mr. Speaker, the Ambassador of the Czech Republic, His Excellency Michael Zantovsky, recently sent an excellent letter to Dr. Joseph Duffey, the outstanding Director of the U.S. Information Agency, expressing his and his country's enthusiastic support for the Fulbright Program. His letter is typical of the ardent support that has been expressed by many foreign leaders for the Fulbright Program and for other educational and cultural exchange programs administered by the USIA.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that Ambassador Zantovsky's letter be placed in the RECORD and I urge my colleagues here in the Congress to give that letter thoughtful and serious consideration. The small amount of money that we spend on the Fulbright Program and on the other cultural and educational exchange programs under USIA is among the most important and worthwhile investments in our Nation's future. I urge my colleagues to join me in enthusiastic support for these programs.

THE CZECH AMBASSADOR,  
Washington, DC, June 25, 1996.

DR. JOSEPH DUFFEY,  
Director, U.S. Information Agency,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. DUFFEY: It is my particular pleasure to inform you about the significance the Czech Republic attributes to the renowned Fulbright Program.

Even before 1989, thanks to this Program, the then Czechoslovak scholars, experts, and students had a unique opportunity during their stay in your country to be exposed to a free democratic society, to the most recent advances in science, and to the creative environment of U.S. universities. After having come back home, they brought fresh, unworn ideas and approaches that transformed society and re-established democracy in our country.

The Velvet Revolution brought enhancement to the Fulbright Program. Each year about twenty to thirty Fulbrighters come to the Czech Republic, and a similar number visit the United States. Many American professors coming to our country develop the fields of American Studies, American Literature, Economics, Political Science—i.e. areas that were rather weak or even missing under the previous regime. Their contribution to reforming university curricula is of critical importance. The American students within the Fulbright Program are extremely interested in our arts, history, and political economy in relation to privatization. On the other hand, Czech Fulbrighters in the U.S. are active in teaching the Czech language, literature, and film for many Slavic departments within your universities. At your prominent research institutions, many technically oriented Czech Fulbrighters benefit from developing their research projects and studies in physical, biological, and engineering sciences.

Needless to say, the exchange of students and researchers is mutually beneficial. One's

own professional and personal enrichment is surpassed by the enrichment of the society as a whole. Through an individual's encounter with a different culture, one gains an experiential knowledge of cultural conditions that impact very basic policies and questions—e.g., how to establish future entrepreneurial activities and in what markets. In addition, Fulbrighters become consumers from within that society, gaining a practical level of intellect, the insight that cannot be replicated from reading a textbook or seeing a movie. And, most importantly, there is the multiplier effect because of their enthusiasm to share it with their colleagues and friends.

The Czech Government, being aware of all the merits of the Fulbright Program and its outstanding significance among any other international programs, has decided to increase its funding up to 40% of the U.S. contribution. It is our strong belief that the U.S. Congress, taking into account all the benefits of this wonderful and unique educational and research program, will continue to support it at the current level.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL ZANTOVSKY,  
Ambassador.

#### IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CUBAN LIBERTY AND DEMOCRATIC SOL- IDARITY ACT, PUBLIC LAW 104- 114

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 1996

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, unless the President decides by July 16, 1996, to exercise his authority to suspend its implementation, title III of Public Law 104-114, the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act, will take effect on August 1. Title III of Public Law 104-114 grants U.S. citizens the right to sue foreign companies that may be using or otherwise benefiting from properties seized by the Castro government following the Cuban revolution in 1959. A key objective of this title is to encourage foreign firms to abandon existing investments in Cuba, and to discourage future investment.

I believe implementation of title III of Public Law 104-114 would be contrary to U.S. national interests in two ways. First, by escalating pressure on the Cuban economy, title III will increase, rather than decrease the chances for a peaceful transition to democracy in Cuba. Second, by penalizing foreign companies for commercial conduct toward a third country, title III will provoke trade conflict with many close friends of the United States, countries with which we cooperate on a range of issues. Several foreign governments have already warned that they may take retaliatory steps, and that could cost U.S. jobs.

I commend to the attention of Members two valuable statements on the implementation of Public Law 104-114. The first is a briefing paper written by Jorge I. Dominguez, coordinator of the Task Force on Cuba of the Inter-American Dialogue and Professor of Government at Harvard University. The second is a letter to the President from five major business groups: the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Foreign Trade Council, the Organization for International Investment, the European-American Chamber of Commerce, and the U.S. Council for International Business.